

~THE STRONGEST BRIDE ON EARTH~

SUMOMOMO, MOMOMO

1

SHINOBU OHTAKA





The strongest holds on earth.
**Sumomomo
Momomo.1**
Shinobu Ohtaka



HAIRA
ICHIDEN
MUSOU-
RYUJI
SECRET
ART!!

HRAAA-
AAAA-
AAH...

**RISING
DRAGON
SPLITTING
HEAVEN
SHOCK!!**





AS I FEARED
...

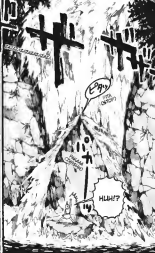
I CAN ONLY
SPLIT THE
WATERFALL
HALFWAY!!



ACK!

YOU
CANNOT
MASTER
THE ARTS
OF OUR
CLAN!!

IT'S
BECAUSE
YOU ARE
A WOMAN,
MOMOKO!!



HUH?



HOWEVER,
THERE IS
ONE WAY
TO AVOID
THIS GRIM
FATE!



NO!!

THIS
CANNOT
BE, FATHER!!

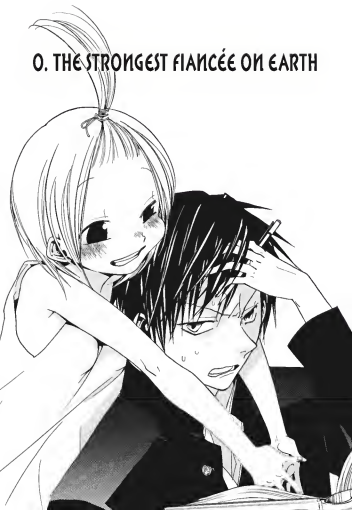
AT THIS RATE,
THE BLOOD
AND SKILLS
OF THE KUZU-
RYU LINE...

...ARE FATED
TO GROW
WEAKER AND
WEAKER
UNTIL THEY
DIE OUT!



YOU
MUST WED
THE WORLD'S
STRONGEST
MAN AND
BEAR THE
WORLD'S
STRONGEST
HEIRS!!!

0. THE STRONGEST FIANCÉE ON EARTH





KOUSHI INUZUKA







YOU ARE
NOT THE
MASTER OF
BASARA
FUDOU
SHINGAN-
RYU!! FOR
NOTHING,
I SEE!

YOU
SENSED MY
PRESENCE
...



DOES
OUR ROOM



HAIRA
ICHIDEN
MUSOU-
RYU!!
SECRET
ART!!



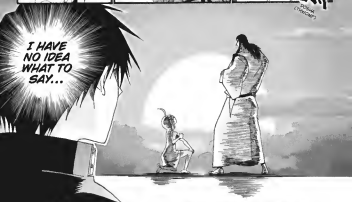


52

1000



FLAW





HUH?



HUUH-HUUH-HUUH!!?

VERY WELL!!

I AM THE ONLY CHILD OF HAIRA ICHIDEN MUISOU-RYUU HEAD SENDAYUU KUZURYUU— MOMOKO KUZURYUU!!!

OSU!!!

押忍!!!



IT ALL HAPPENED AROUND THE TIME YOU WERE BORN...

I MUST EXPLAIN!

W-WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE...?

I HAVE COME TO MAKE A CHILD WITH KOUISHI INUZUKA-DONO!!!

MOMOKO KUZURYUU



H-HOW COULD YOU ...!?

I BELIEVE YOUR SON WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR MY DAUGHTER!!

I WAS THINKING THE SAME THING!!



I MADE A PACT WITH ANOTHER MAN...

SAME GOES FOR YOU!

N-NOT BACK!!



COME, KOUISHI-
DONO! LET
US ENGAGE
IN BABY-
MAKING!!

DUN DUN

DUN DUN

DUN DUN

DUN DUN

DUN DUN

DUN DUN

DUN DUN

DUN DUN

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DUN DUN

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DUN DUN

DUN DUN

DUN DUN



CIVIL CODE,
ARTICLE 805,
"ENGAGEMENT
ANNULMENT!"
MARRIAGE
ENGAGEMENT IS
DEFINED AS THE
VOLUNTARY
AGREEMENT OF—

THIS IS
ABSURD! I
HAVE THE
RIGHT TO
ANNUL AN
UNFAIR
ENGAGEMENT!



SHU
CHUO



OF...

D-DO
YOU EVEN
UNDERSTAND
WHAT YOU'RE
SAYING?!

OF
COURSE
I DO!

BOOK: CIVIL CODE



I-I
I WANT
Y-YOU...

I-IT
MEANS
...

...TO
HAVE
S-S-
SE—
!!

YOU
REALLY



BOOK: PART 17





ROAD STOP

SHIN: TE COME TE TE





HLUH?



THIS
WAS NOT
OUR FIRST
MEETING!

WHAT-
EVER
DO YOU
MEAN?

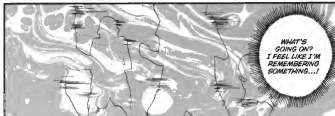


YOU USED TO
BE SO DILIGENT
IN LEARNING
THE WAYS OF
YOUR MARTIAL
ARTS...



.....
.....I?

...WHY DID
YOU GIVE
THEM UP?



WHAT'S
GOING ON?
I FEEL LIKE I'M
REMEMBERING
SOMETHING...!



BOOK: PART 00



BOOK: PART 01 (CHAPTER) BOOK 01





TO ENSURE
FAIRNESS, THE
CONSTITUTION
REQUIRES
THAT JUDGES
BE...

THE JUDICIAL
SYSTEM IS DIVIDED
INTO THE SUPREME
COURT AND LOWER
COURTS; A THREE-
STAGE TRIAL
SYSTEM IS
UTILIZED.

WHA
OOOO

WHA
OOOO

THE
CONSTITUTION
OUTLAYS EXTRA-
ORDINARY TRIBUNALS
TO PREVENT THE
GOVERNMENT FROM
ARBITRARILY VIOLATING
AN INDIVIDUAL'S
HUMAN RIGHTS.



KE
OHHHH

.....

HE'S
SO HAND-
SOME AND
SMART...

...AND
RELAXED
AND
NATURE!

INUZUKA-
KUN'S SO
COOL!

WELL
DONE.

OOOO

MR'S
ANALOGUE



SPLENDIDLY
DONE,
KOUSHA-
DONG!

WUOOOO
(XXXXXXXXXXXX)

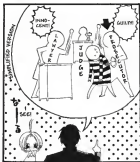
BYE, JIN (CROUCHED)

WHATEVER
JUST
HAPPENED
...

...KOUSHA-
DONG
LOOKED
VERY BECAL
AND REFINED
DOING IT!



WOLF: NOT GOOD





SHY: DO CHIRAMI DO DO DO DO DO DO DO DO







I'M ONLY
GOOD...

DEATH BY
THUNDER



DEATH BY THUNDER



DEATH BY THUNDER



MY
BODY'S
FROZEN...
I CAN'T
MOVE!

SAPPH. (D) (WHIMP) (D) (D) (D) (D) (D) (D) (D)



BUT NO!
WHY!?

JUST
LET
THEM
BE...

I DON'T
HAVE THE
TIME TO
BOTHR
WITH
THIS.



KOUSHI-
DONO?

...?



!?

WHATEVER
ARE YOU
SAYING!?

I HAVE
A GRAM
SCHOOL
SESSION
TODAY.

I
HAVE
TO
GO.



I DON'T HAVE
THE TIME TO
BOTHER WITH
THE *LITTLE*
THINGS AT
THIS POINT...



THERE
ARE
BIGGER,
WORSE
CRIMES
FOR ME
TO PUNISH
IN THE
FUTURE.

STUDYING
IS OF MORE
IMPORTANCE
NOW...



...*LITTLE*
THINGS
...?



!?



BACK
THEN...

...WHEN
I WAS
PICKED
ON...

...AND YOU
SAVED ME...
WAS THAT A
LITTLE THING
TOO?





**EVEN NOW...
I STILL REVERE
YOU GREATLY!!**



.....
.....
....!!

...
D-



**I STILL
BELIEVE
YOU ARE THE
SAME STRONG,
BENEVOLENT
PERSON...**



DON'T
FORCE
YOUR
IDEALS
ON ME!

I'M NOT
BENEVOLENT,
NOR AM I
STRONG!



I'M NOT
GOING TO
LET MYSELF
BE MOVED
ENOUGH
TO FORGET
THAT!

I ALWAYS
KNEW I WAS
A CHEAP,
SHAMEFUL
GONARD!



...WHY DO
YOU HAVE
YOUR FIST
CLENCHED
THAT
WAY!?

NO IT'S
NOT!!

THAT
IS A
LIE!

THEN
TELL
ME...





WHAT ARE YOU
STRUGGLING
TO KEEP DOWN
INSIDE YOUR
HEART...?



...I'VE BEEN
SUPPRESSING
MY REAL SELF
DEEP DOWN
INSIDE!!

SHE'S
RIGHT...

I'VE ALWAYS
BEEN SO
CONFUSED AND
TERRIFIED...



WHADDYA
WANT,
SABU-
BUKAT?

HEARTY

THIS IS
DESPICABLE.
KNOCK IT
OFF.

HEY!



SHANN
CHUHO



**CRIMINAL
CODE, ARTICLE 249
"EXTORTION"!!
A PERSON FOUND
EXTORTING ANOTHER
TO DELIVER PROPERTY
WILL SERVE A PRISON
SENTENCE OF
UP TO TEN
YEARS!!**

**CRIMINAL
CODE, ARTICLE
208
"ASSAULT"!! ANY
PERSON FOUND
ASSAULTING
ANOTHER WILL
SERVE A PRISON
SENTENCE OF UP
TO TEN YEARS OR
BE SUBJECT TO
A FINE OF UP TO
¥300,000!!**

POULI MAY CODES



**CRIMINAL CODE,
ARTICLE 222,
"INTIMIDATION"!!
A PERSON FOUND
THREATENING HARM
TO ANOTHER WILL
SERVE UP TO TWO
YEARS IN PRISON
OR BE SUBJECT TO
A FINE OF UP TO
¥300,000!!**



BLACK, WHITE, AND GREY





SO IF
YOUR OWN
BROTHER WAS
BEING PICKED
ON BY A
BULLY...



...YOU'D BE
GIVING HIM
THE SAME
SPEECH!?

!!!



WHY...
YOU...

YOU'RE A
HYPOCRITE
IF YOU ACT
LIKE YOUR
STATEMENT
ONLY APPLIES
TO SOME
PEOPLE!

STOP
PLAYING
"BAD BOY"
WITH YOUR
WEAK-MINDED
PROCLAMA-
TIONS!!





DO
YOUR
BEST!

DO
YOUR
BEST!

DO
YOUR
BEST!

DO
YOUR
BEST!

DO YOUR
BEST, KAZUSHI-
DORO!

AHA!!!









ALL RIGHT,
YOU THUGS!
FAILURES!
DEADBEATS!

IT'S TIME
TO MAKE THE
MOST OF MY
MOUTH!

THERE'S
NO WAY I CAN
POSSIBLY BEAT
THESE LUNKS IN
A STRAIGHT
FIGHT.

I'LL HAVE
TO UTILIZE
THIS GUY'S
RIDICULOUS
STRENGTH
SOMEHOW!







SFX: BOOMBOOMBOOMBO (EXPLOSIONS)



SFX: BOOMBOOMBO (RUMBLE)



SFX: BOOMBOOMBO (EXPLOSIONS)

SFX: BOOM (EXPLOSION) BOOM



TERRIBLE WEALTH??







EPHIL JIMIN C70000000



...BUT I
WILL NEVER
LET MY
BATTLE WITH
EVIL DEEDS
LAPSE!!!



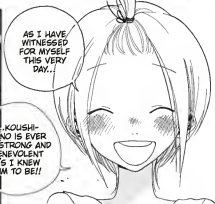
STREET
TOWN
HILL
ON
IT.

I
LOVE
YOU!!
♡

IDIOT...



OP: BAKASHAM (SHINJI)



IT DOESN'T
FEEL BAD,
THOUGH.

...BAH...

...I
WAS IN A
BIZARRE
STATE OF
MIND
TODAY...





HOPE
YOU DON'T
MIND ME
SHARING.

MY NAME
IS KOUSHI
INUZUKA,
AND
I'VE GOT
PROBLEMS.



...BUT
I SHALL DO
MY UTMOST
TO BLOSSOM
INTO A LADY
OF CHARMS...

KOUSHI-
DONO...
TONIGHT
I BECOME
A WOMAN...

IT IS MY
FIRST TIME...
SO I CANNOT
CLAIM TO BE
SKILLED IN
THESE ARTS...

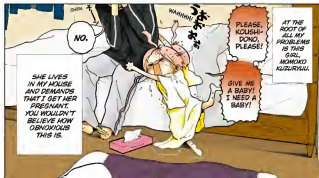


...OF SH-
SHARING...
M-MY...

...B-
B-BED,
TONIGHT
...?

KOUSHI-
DONO...
W-WILL YOU
DO ME THE
HONOR...

DO NOT
CARE.



AND OUR FATHERS GOT TOGETHER AND BRILLIANTLY DECIDED THAT OUR SUPERIOR GENES SHOULD BE COMBINED, AND SO BETROTHED THE TWO OF US.

HERE'S THE STORY: OUR FAMILIES ARE APPARENTLY BOTH DESCENDED FROM LONG LINES OF TRADITIONAL MARTIAL ARTS DISCIPLINES.

MAE-RING!

MAE-RING!

MAE-RING!

SHANNING KUNSHINGEN © TOSHIKAZU

I KNEW HER WHEN I WAS A LITTLE KID, AND THE EXPERIENCES I WAS PUT THROUGH ON HER BEHALF HAVE LEFT ME ABSOLUTELY TERRIFIED OF THE THREAT OF VIOLENCE...



WELL, I'M NOT GETTING MARRIED TO HER! I'M JUST A NORMAL PERSON WITH NO INTEREST IN MARTIAL ARTS.

PLUS, THIS GIRL IS TROUBLE. I KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE.

...ON ACCOUNT OF THE FACT THAT SHE'S COME BACK INTO MY LIFE...



LATELY, BECAUSE I'D BEEN ENVELOPED BY A GROUP OF THESE...



...I'VE STARTED OVER-COMING MY FEAR AND WEAKNESS...

BUT SOMETIMES I ONLY ENJOY...



I'M GOING TO
BE A COURT
PROSECUTOR!

HOW
MANY
TIMES DO
I HAVE TO
TELL YOU,
DADDY I'M
NOT A
MARTIAL
ARTIST!

STOP
READING
THOSE
BOOKS
AND START
LEARNING
SOME KILLER
ATTACKS!!

BAH!
YOU
FA-
THETIC
LITTLE
TWIG!



WELL SAID,
MOMOMO!
HAVE AT
THEE!

I MUST BE
SUITABLE
FOR THE
ROLE OF
KOUSHI-
DONG'S
WIFE!

GIVE
ME THE
TRAINING,
FATHER-
IN-LAW!
I WISH
TO BE
STRON-
GER!

KOOOU-
UUUUSHI-
!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!

GET
TO YOUR
TRAINING,
BOY!!

KOUSHI'S FATHER
UNKEN INUZUKA

CRAP...
NOT
YOU!!



SFX: DOKAMIN DOKAMON

...HOW CAN I
LIVE A BANE
LIFE UNDER
THESE INSANE
CONDITIONS?



SO MY
PROBLEM
IS...



W
H
A
T?

THE
NEXT
DAY



YOU'LL
SEE,
COME
THE
MORN!

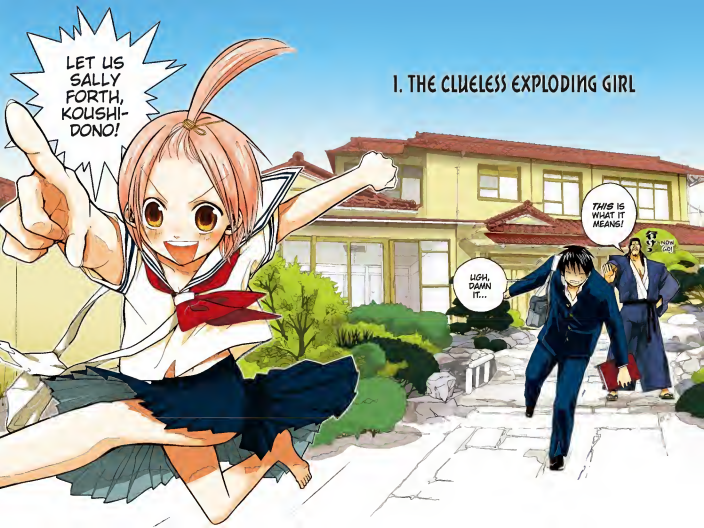
WHAT
DOES
THAT
MEAN?

NOT
QUITE!



SCHOOL'S
THE ONLY
PLACE I'M
SAFE FROM
THESE
NUTJOBS.

SCHOOL.
I'LL GO TO BED
EARLY SO I CAN
WAKE UP FOR
SCHOOL...



LET US
SALLY
FORTH,
KOUISHI-
DONO!

I. THE CLUELESS EXPLODING GIRL

THIS IS
WHAT IT
MEANS!

UGH,
DAMN
IT...

HOW
GO!







LETTER TO MY FRIEND





...AND THE FATE WITH WHICH YOU ARE BOTH BURNED!

THE TRUE REASON WHY YOU MUST BEAR A CHILD TOGETHER...

SO YOUR NAME IS MOMOKO KUZURYUU-CHAN?

NICE TO MEET YOU!

PRETEND YOU DON'T KNOW HER.

RELAX! LOOSEN UP!

SO CUTE!

LOOK HOW NEAT- YOU'RE SHE IS!





SFX: HISO HISO MISO MISO

SFX: HISO CHIHASEDO HISO



SFX: BUCHI (GASP) BUCHI BUCHI





ARGH!
DAMN THAT
COCKY LITTLE
INUZUKA!

SABA
DRAGON



YOU
SAW THOSE
DRAGONS...

DRAG-
ONS!

DRAGONS.
SO WHAT?

PSSH...



JUST A
FEW DAYS
AGO, HE
WAS OUR
SLAVE,
MAN!

I'LL KILL
HIM...AND
HIS LITTLE
COUSIN!

P-DEDE,
FORGET
ABOUT
IT...



HE COULD
TAKE CARE OF
ANYBODY, NO
PROBLEM!

OH
YEAH!
SAIGO-
SAN!



SAIGO-
SAAA-
AAN!

SAIGO-
SAN!



WE'VE
GOT OUR
BOSS TO
RELY ON...

...DON'T YOU
REMEMBER
SAIGO-
SAN?





TO OUR
BOSS,
SAIGO-
SAN...

...DESTROYING
INUIZUKA AND
HIS LITTLE
FRIEND WILL
BE A PIECE
O' CAKE!



EVERY
WORTHLESS
SKUNK IN THE
KANTO AREA
TREMbles
WHEN HE HEARS
THAT NAME AND
FALLS TO HIS
KNEES WHEN
HE SEES THAT
FIGURE.

THE
EMPEROR
OF THE
UNDER-
WORLD...

100% 8000000000



ME
TOO.

SENSEI,
I'VE GOT
A BIT OF A
COLD GOM!
OH, I CAN'T
DO THIS.



TODAY'S
HOMEROOM
WILL START
WITH A SPECIAL
ENDURANCE
TEST!



SORRY...



YOU'RE
GONNA GET
WHAT'S
COMING
TO YA.



...JUST
WAIT
UNTIL
THIS
CLASS
LET'S
OUT.

HEY
...



TH-
THREATEN
ME ALL YOU
WANT...

...I'M NOT
GOING TO
LISTEN TO
YOU GUYS
ANYMORE.



A COLD!?
PATHETIC!

WHY CAN'T
YOU TWERPS
PUMP YOUR-
SELVES UP,
LIKE ME!?



WHAT
ARE THEY
PLOTTING?

GEEZ...
WHY CAN'T
THEY GIVE
IT A REST?



...AND ALL-
AROUND
SUPER-
ATHLETE!!

...OF
DAIGORO
NITTAI,
MEMBER
OF THE 1984
JAPANESE
OLYMPIC
GYMNASTICS
TEAM...

FOLLOW
THE LEAD
...

TEMPORARY TEACHER
FOR KOUSHI'S CLASS

DAIGORO NITTAI





DAIGORO NITTAL (DAIGORO NITTAL) DAIGORO NITTAL





BPFL: KUNIO (COLORS) KUNIO

BPFL: KUNIO (COLORS) KUNIO









YOUR
CHALLENGE
IS MET?

THE

YOU HAVE
FOOLISHLY
CHOSEN TO
CHALLENGE
THE GREAT
DAIGORO
NITTAI!

DAMN YOU,
INUZUKA
AND YOUR
LITTLE
COUS-
INNIN...



**A TRUE
SPORTS-
MAN
KNOWS
HIS SIDE
STEPS!**

HE ALWAYS ACTS TOUGH AND TAKES IT OUT ON HIS STUDENTS.



WE'VE SACRIFICED THE TEACHER

...THIS
SERVES
HIM
RIGHT...



LET'S
SEE YOU
REPLICATE
THAT,
INDUKA'S
COUSIN!



THE TRUE
MEASURE OF
SPORTSMAN-
SHIP IS NOT
RUNNING...
BUT INSTAN-
TANEOUS
FORCE!

SO WHAT IF YOU CAN RUN A LITTLE FASTER?





OF THE BOSSMAN (THUNDER)







SPIN: PINK (CHARGED BOMB)





WHAT'S
WITH THAT
ENORMOUS
VAULT?

WH A ...

THE TWENTY-
THREE-STEP
VAULT BOX IS
A LEGENDARY
RECORD SET
BY YOURS
TRULY ON
MY YOUNGER
DAYS...

HEH
HEH
HEH

A
SPORTS-
MAN'S
TRUE
WORTH
IS IN THE
VAULTING
BOX!!

BUT
ISN'T THE
VAULTING
BOX YOUR
BEST
SUBJECT?

THAT'S
TOTAL-
LY NOT
FAIR!

THERE IS
NO WAY
I'LL LOSE
IN THIS!

ALL RIGHT,
INUZUKA!



...YOU'RE
NOT GOING
TO GET...

...YOUR P.S.
CREDITS FOR
THIS UNIT!



IF THIS
COUSIN OF
YOURS CAN'T
CLEAR THIS
BOX...



SPY: SALLVSHISHA



SPY: SALLVSHISHA CENTURY TAT TAT TAT



SPY: SALLVSHISHA



HA-HA-HA!
I'D LIKE TO
SEE YOU
JUMP ALL
THE WAY
UP TO THE
ROOF!

**CAN YOU
JUMP THAT
HIGH?**

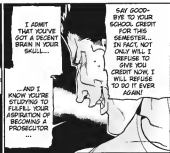
...I CAN'T
EVEN SEE
THE BOX.

**G-SHUT
UP! I'M A
GROWN MAN!
I'M GONNA
BE FORTY-
TWO THIS
YEAR!!**

**TALK ABOUT
UNLITÉRACY
AGAINST
TEAM-
WORK,
NO LESS!**

WHAT
AN IDIOT!
WHAT A
CRAPPY
TEACHER!
WHAT A
CREEP!

OF COURSE
YOU CANNOT
JUMP IT,
INDIANA'S
COUSIN...
—
BUT A
DEAL'S
A DEAL





OPR: 00 CTR00: 04 OF 04 00



OPR: 00000000 (00000000)





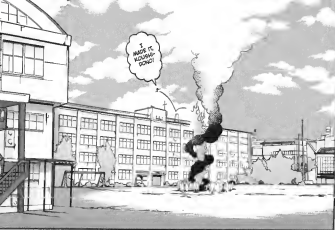
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ABARE! BOD ADO ADO! BOD ADO ADO ADO!





DATA DATA (SHAGGON) DATA DATA





LETTER TO MY FRIEND





YOU
MUST NOT
LET THEM
KILL YOU!
KOUSHA...

...NO
MATTER HOW
GREAT AND
FEARFUL
THOSE
ASSASSINS
MIGHT BE!!

A...
...A
WARI?

HEY.

...TO
BRING ABOUT
A WAR...

...THE
TWELVE
HEAVENLY
GENERALS'
SEVENTH
WAR FOR
JAPAN!!!





2. ENTER THE ASSASSIN



THE WORLD
OF COMBAT IS
DOG-EAT-DOG.
THE STRONG
SURVIVE, AND
THE WEAK ARE
AFFORDED NO
MERCY...

...REDUCED
TO THIS
SORRY
STATE...



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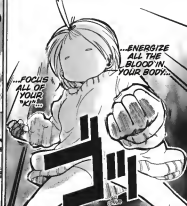




PERSONAL HEATING PACK





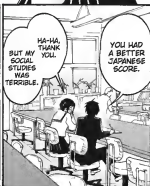


SFX: ANAKARAAAAA CARRAAAAAHHH





*CLASS
REP...*



I THINK
IT'S NORMAL,
SMART GIRLS
LIKE THIS THAT
I'M REALLY
SUITED FOR...

JUST BEING
AROUND YOU
SETS MY HEART
AT EASE.



EPY: SARA (MUTUAL) SARA SARA



EPY: SARA (SARAH)

EPY: SARA (SARAH)







I'M TENKA
KOGANEI, OF
THE SHINDARA
RETTETSU-
RYUU!

AND
I HAVE
COME TO
KILL YOU,
KOUISHI
INUZUKA!!

ASSASSIN -
TENKA KOGANEI



AN
ASSAS-
SIN!

IS HE
REALLY
HERE TO
KILL ME?

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?



WH-
OH
...

W-
WHO IS
THIS?!



YOU MUST NOT
LET THEM KILL
YOU, NO MATTER
HOW GREAT AND
TERRIBLE THOSE
ASSASSINS
MIGHT BE.

THIS ALREADY
HAS
HAPPENED
ABOUT...



EP4: JIN CARNEADO



EP4: BASTON CHALLENGE!





BOULDER CHASE!!





0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000





THE DAY
YOU
MOVED
AWAY!

WE
MADE THAT
PROMISE!



YOU
REMEMBER
ME... YOU
REMEMBER
THAT DAY!

NO,
MOMOKO!
YOU CAN'T
HAVE
FORGOTTEN
ME! COME
ON!

(P. 9) SHI (C. 94)



...ON
THIS
SOCCER
BALL!

AND WE
PLEGGED
OUR
FUTURE...

しょうかいの
あかしには
けっ
せん
せん

(BALL) ON THE DAY WE MET AGAIN, WE WILL SEE AN-
(C. 94) (P. 10)



I...

I...

ITIL...



MOMOKO!
IS IT
COMING
BACK TO
YOU?

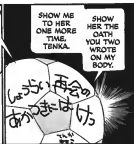
AAAAH
IS THAT
-!?



SPIN: KARI (SCRATCH) KARI KARI KARI KARI KARI

SPIN: KUN KUN (DING DONG) KUN KUN







SHIN: SHIN (PANT) SHIN SHIN SHIN



SHIN: SHIN SHIN SHIN SHIN SHIN





NOTEBOOK: SOME STORIES







WHA—!

WHAT DO
YOU THINK
YOU'RE
DOING TO
HER!?

ギャース

OFF! (BIG GASS)



CRAP
HE'S
REALLY
PISSED
OFF ABOUT
SOME-
THING.

WHOA!
YOU'VE
GOT THE
WRONG
IDSA.



GET AWAY
FROM MOMOKO,
YOU HOODLUM!

WHAT
IF?



I CANNOT
COMPLAIN
ABOUT ANY
PUNISHMENT
I SHOULD
RECEIVE!

I BELONG
TO HIM
ALREADY, IN
BODY AND
MIND...

ALL
FAULT
LIES
WITH
ME!

...YET I
DID NOT
HEED HIS
COMMAND.



LIA, RIGHT!
KOUHII-
DONO HAS
DONE
NOTHING
WRONG!

RIGHT
IF?

I'M NOT
DOING
ANY-
THING
WRONG IN
THE LEAST.

HUH
IF?



WAA! BWA! (BWA) BWA! BWA!







...WITH
MOMOKO
AS THE
PRIZE!!!

MOMOKO
DOES NOT
DESERVE...

...TO GO TO
A FILTHY DOG
LIKE YOU! I
DEMAND A
DUEL...

SH: 80000000 (744000004)



HE REALLY
MEANS TO DO
ME HARM!

HOLY CRAP,
HE'S GONE
OFF THE DEEP
END.



IN
MARTIAL
ARTS...

...HE
MIGHT
HAVE THE
ADVANTAGE,
BUT...

BUT I'LL
E SLAUGHTERED IN A
FIGHT.

HE'S GOT
A CLEAR
ADVANTAGE.

HE'S
FUGG!

WAIT NOW?
I DON'T
THINK HE'LL
LET ME GO
UNINJURED.



YOU
COWARD!

RYUKU
(1004-1005)



COME ON,
SHOW ME
WHAT YOU
GOTT!

IF
YOU WANT
ATTACK ME,
I'LL COME
AFTER YOU!

...IF I CAN
PRESSURE
HIM...

CHIBARI
(1004-1005)

87% 24 (25%)



DO YOU
CHALLENGE
SOMEONE
WHO HATES
NOODLES TO
AN EATING
CONTEST?

DO YOU
CHALLENGE
A MAN WHO
SINKS LIKE
A STONE TO
A SWIMMING
MATCH?



DIDN'T I
JUST TELL
YOU THAT
I DON'T DO
MARTIAL
ARTS?!

YOU
HAVE A
CLEAR
ADVANTAGE
IN A DUEL!

IT IS
UNFAIR!!

HUM?!

RYUKU
(1005)



HMPH
...

IS
FIGHTING
THE ONLY
THING YOU
KNOW HOW
DO TO?

F-FINE!
WHAT
SHOULD I
CHALLENGE
YOU TO,
THEN?!



YOUR
CHALLENGE
IS NO
DIFFERENT
FROM
THOSE!

W-WHAAAAAT?!

87% 44% (25%)



OF
COURSE!
I HAVE
THIS!



!!

IS
THAT THING
YOU'VE BEEN
CLINGING TO
ALL THIS TIME
JUST FOR
SHOW!?



HOW
FUNNY!

BECAUSE
I'VE NEVER
LOST AT IT
EITHER...



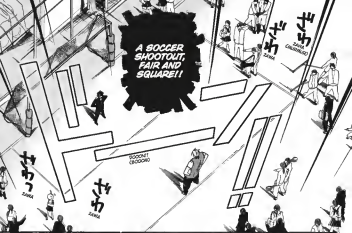
IT
SURE
AIN'T!

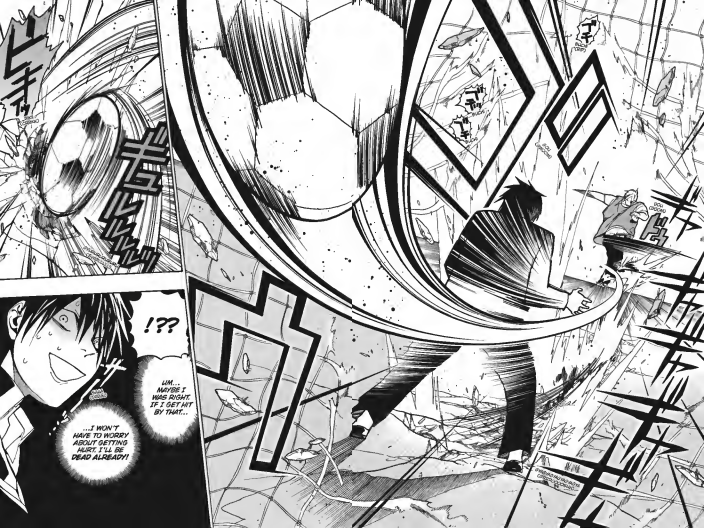
!!

NO ONE'S
EVER BEEN
ABLE TO
BEST ME
AT THIS!



IN THAT
CASE...





グルグルグル

BOOM BOOM BOOM
BOOM

!??

WIM...
MAYBE I
WAS RIGHT.
IF I GET HIT
BY THAT...

...I WON'T
HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT GETTING
HURT. I'LL BE
DEAD ALREADY!



SONNA
OOOOOOO

...THIS
IS STILL
A FIGHT
TO THE
DEATH!

WIPE
THAT
PATHETIC
LOOK
OFF YOUR
FACE!

KNOW
THIS...

WHAT!?

SONNA
OOOOOOO



...AND
SLIT HIS
BELLY!!

WHOEVER
LOSES HAS
TO BE A
MAN...

WHY
WOULDN'T
IT BE?
IT'S A FIGHT
BETWEEN
MEN OVER
THE WOMAN
THEY LOVE.

SONNA
OOOOOOO



SONNA
OOOOOOO

I'M ABOUT
TO DIE...OVER
A SOCCER
MATCH!?

CHAPTER 2, ENTER THE ASSASSIN - END



FOR THE
SAKE
OF MY
CLAN!

I WILL
WIN!

しょうかいの
あかしに
けつ

ON THE DAY WE
MEET AGAIN, WE
WILL RE-MEET

AND FOR
THE SAKE
OF THE
PROMISE I
MADE WITH
MOMOKO!



RAAAH! TAKE
THIS, KOUISHI
INUZUKAAA!!



WHAT
DOES
THE "M"
MEAN?

3. A BATTLE FOR PRIDE





SEIJI DOGO (CHIEF)





SPIN BY CHURY





OPK, AHSO (DRAINED) AHSO



OPK, BOSHUKA (STEP) SOKU





!?

WHAT'S WITH HIM?

WHY WON'T HE ACCEPT IT?



I THINK I'LL PASS!



N-NO THANKS ...

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C-COME ON, LET'S JUST GET THIS OVER WITH!



HE WANTS TO SETTLE OUR SCORE, NO MATTER WHAT!

NOTHING'S WORKING...







MY
FAMILY IS
THE CLAN
OF THE
TIGER.

WHY
SO SUR-
PRISED??

IF I
COULDN'T
CATCH THE
PREY I SET
OUT TO NAB,
I'D BE A
DISGRACE TO
THE KOGANEI
NAME!

SOON
CATCHING



OH MY
GOD...



...SO
YOU CAN
FORGET
ABOUT
ESCAPING
FROM
ME!

OF
COURSE,
MY PREY
THIS TIME
IS YOU...



...AND
OFFENSE
...



IN
DEFENSE
...



THERE'S
NOTHING
MORE I
CAN DO!

...I'M TOTALLY
OVERPOW-
ERED...

0-2

KOUSHI INUZUKA -
TENKA KOGANEI



...KOUSHI
INUZUKA

...AND
YOU'LL
HAVE
LOST...



ONE
MORE
GOAL...



JUST
ONE
MORE
GOAL



HE REALLY,
SERIOUSLY
WANTS TO
KILL ME!!

TAKE
YOUR
PICK!

SO, WILL
YOU LOSE
AND CLIT
YOUR
STOMACH
OPEN?

OR WILL
YOU LET
MY SHOT
PULVER-
IZE YOUR
BONES?



I CAN'T
BELIEVE I
WON'T LIVE TO
SEE ANOTHER
DAY, ALL OVER
SUCH A STU-
PID THING...

I CAN'T
ACCEPT
THIS AT
ALL...

...BE IN
FRONT OF A
SOCCER
NET AFTER
SCHOOL?

I DON'T
WANT
TO DIE,
DAMN!!

HOW CAN
MY FINAL
RESTING
PLACE...



TSK!
I'M REALLY
DISAPPOINTED
IN YOU, KOSHIKI
TAKESHIKA!



IS
THERE ANY
WAY TO GET
AWAY FROM
HIM...?!

THERE
MUST BE SOMETHING
I CAN
DO...



SPY: JEA JEA (SHOCK)

SPY: CHIEF (FIGHT)





I FELT THE
SAME WAY
WHEN I WAS
A SLAVE
TO THOSE
THUGS...



DAMNIT...
I KNOW THIS
FEELING...



SHOW
EVERYONE
HOW YOU WILL
APOLOGIZE
TO ME.

KNEEL
ON THE
GROUND
LIKE
THE LOSER
YOU ARE.



COLD
SWEAT, A
PAINFUL LUMP
AT THE BACK
OF MY THROAT.
ONCE I GET
THIS WAY...

I KNOW
THIS FEELING,
BECAUSE I'VE
EXPERIENCED
IT MANY TIMES
BEFORE.



(SPIN: BIRD COLLARED)

(SPIN: NEW CLASH)











...WILL
CRUMBLE TO
PIECES AND
DISAPPEAR!

IN THAT
MOMENT,
SOMETHING
VERY
IMPORTANT
INSIDE OF
YOU...



(10/10) (10/10) (10/10)



...
AND
OVER
...

OVER
...

I WILL
STOP YOU,
NO MATTER
HOW MANY
TIMES
YOU TRY.

...FROM
LETTING
GO OF
YOU!

...IS
WHAT
KEEPS
ME...

THAT
HORRIBLE
THOUGHT
...



**...AND
OVER!!**



**DAMMIT...
DAMMIT!!**

**...IT WILL
ENSURE
THAT IT
HAPPENS
THE NEXT
TIME, AND
THE NEXT
AFTER
THAT, AND
SO ON!**



**IT
SO
THAT
EVERY
TIME...**



**...WILL
HAPPEN
TO ME,
EVERY
SINGLE
TIME?**

**THAT'S RIGHT,
BUT JUST
ASSUMING
THE
MINUTATION
OF ADMITTING
DEFEAT...**



**I'M GONNA
PULVERIZE
YOUR BONES
INTO DUST!!**

COME:
SHINJI
POOD
POLICE!

**HOW CAN
I STOP HIS
SHOTS?**

THINK!

**THE STEELY
POWER OF THE
TIGER WILL BE
CHANNELED
THROUGH MY
SHOTS AND INTO
YOUR BODY FOR
MASSIVE DAMAGE!
YOU'LL BE
BLASTED TO
SMITHEREENS!**

**YOU'RE
SCARED,
KOUSHI
INUTAKA!
MY FAMILY IS
THE CLAN OF
THE TIGER!**

THINK!

**KEEP HIM
BUSY, KEEP
TALKING...
BUY TIME TO
THINK.**

**SMITH-
EEREENS?
I HARDLY
THINK
SO.**

**NOTHING
MORE
THAN A
GREAT
BIG...**

**WHAT
IS A
TIGER,
ANY-
WAY?**

**TIGER
THIS,
TIGER
THAT!
WHAT'S
YOUR
PROBLEM?**

**YOU'LL BE
KILLED BY
A WARRIOR
OF THE
TIGER!**

**DON'T BE
SCARED.
YOU
SHOULD
BE
PROUD!**



AND
THAT'S
WHY
HE...



OH, OH (PURT)



WE CAN NEVER
FULFILL OUR
PROMISE, NOW...

!!

OF
COURSE...

OH, OH (PURT) OH, OH (PURT) OH, OH (PURT) OH, OH (PURT)



...A TIGER
REALLY IS
JUST...

IF YOU
THINK OF
IT THAT
WAY...



?

I'VE
FOUND YOUR
WEAKNESS!







WFL DODD (BUTTER) DODD







AAH! MY
COVER IS
BLOWN!!

IN OTHER
WORDS, A CAT'S
WEAKNESSES
WILL BE YOUR
WEAKNESSES
AS WELL!!



I'M GONNA
WIN AND
KEEP MY
PROMISE TO
MOMOKO!

IT AIN'T
GONNA
HAPPEN...
I'M
GONNA
WIN!



Y-YOU'RE
CRAZY!

AND THIS
BEGINS MY
DRAMATIC
COME-
BACK...



A
P
U
S
S
Y
W
I
L
L
O
W
!



MY
PRIDE AS A
TIGER WILL
NOT ALLOW MY
WEAKNESSES
TO BE USED
AGAINST
ME!





3-2

KOVSHI INUZUKA - TENKA KOGANEI



MORE
IMPORTANTLY
...



THE PRACTICE
OF SEPPUKU
WAS ABOLISHED
AGES AGO, IN
THE SIXTH YEAR
OF THE MEIJI
ERA, 1873.

DON'T,
YOU IDIOT.

I LOST...
SO I'LL
KILL MYSELF
NOW AS WE
AGREED.



DAMMIT,
MAN!



WHAT
IS THE
TWELVE
HEAVENLY
GENERALS'
WAR?
I WANT
ANSWERS!!

WHY
WERE YOU
TRYING TO
KILL ME IN
THE FIRST
PLACE?

...I'M
GOING TO
HAVE YOU
EXPLAIN
WHAT MY
FATHER
WOULDN'T!

4. DINNER, A BATH, OR ME





WHY
WERE YOU
TRYING TO
KILL ME?

WHAT
IS THE
TWELVE
HEAVENLY
GENERALS'
WAR?



THEN
YOU
WERE...

I WAS
JUST
TOLD TO
"KILL
KOUSHI
INUZUKA,"
THAT'S
ALL!

AND I
DON'T
KNOW
ABOUT
ALL THESE
OTHER
ASSAS-
SINS.

I-I DON'T
KNOW! I
DON'T KNOW
ALL THE
COMPLICATED
DETAILS!



Y-YOU
JUST
GOT
THAT?

...ONE
OF THE
ASSAS-
SINS!!



REAL: ON THAT DAY WE MEET AGAIN, WE WILL GET INTO TENGA, MOMOKO







SPR: 0000000000 (0000000000)













...HAS EXTENDED
TO THE 21ST
CENTURY AS THE
WARRIORS OF
THE EAST AND THE
WEST CONTINUE
TO CLASH IN
A VIOLENT
STRUGGLE FOR
CONTROL!



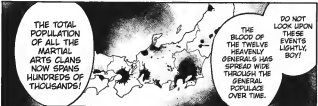
IS IT
REALLY
ALL THAT
DANGEROUS?

SO YOU'RE
SAYING...
THESE MARTIAL
ARTS FAMILIES
ARE HAVING
A NATIONWIDE
DISPUTE...?



THE
BLOOD OF
THE TWELVE
HEAVENLY
GENERALS HAS
SPREAD WIDE
THROUGH THE
GENERAL
POPULACE
OVER TIME.

DO NOT
LOOK UPON
THESE
EVENTS
LIGHTLY,
BOY!



THE TOTAL
POPULATION
OF ALL THE
MARTIAL
ARTS CLANS
NOW SPANS
HUNDREDS OF
THOUSANDS!



...EVEN
YAKUZA AND
ORGANIZED
CRIME
SYNDICATES!

...TO
CELEBRITIES,
MEDIA, AND
SPORTS...

FROM POLITICS
AND FINANCE...

AND NOT
ONLY THAT,
THEY HAVE
MEMBERS IN
ALL FACETS
OF POWER!



TH-THAT'S
A LOT...

FOR EXAMPLE,
THINK OF ALL
THE SPORTS
PLAYERS YOU
CAN IMAGINE,
WITH "TORA"
CYGERS IN
THEIR LAST
NAME.



...SUDDENLY
GATHER THEIR
STRENGTH FOR
A MASSIVE
CONFLICT?

AND
WHAT WILL
HAPPEN IF
ALL THESE
POWERFUL
FIGURES
ACROSS
JAPAN...

...BUT
IT SEEMS
MORE AND
MORE LIKELY
BY THE
MOMENT!

THIS STRUCK
ME AS A BUNCH
OF CRAZY
HOGWASH AT
FIRST...





OPR. 1000000000 (2000000000)





...AND AT
THE HEAD OF
THE EASTERN
JAPAN ARMY,
THE INUZUKA
FAMILY!

AT THE
HEAD OF
THE
WESTERN
JAPAN ARMY
IS THE
KUZURYUU
FAMILY...



...THE
ARRIVAL
OF THE
SEVENTH
HEAVENLY
GENERALS'
WAR OF JAPAN!!

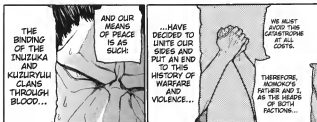
...WE
COULD
SEE THE
SEVENTH
GREAT
WAR...

ONE
DAY
VERY
SOON
...

AFTER
A LONG
PERIOD
OF STALE-
MATE,
BOTH
SIDES ARE
READY TO
EXPLODE.

!!

!!



THE
BINDING
OF THE
INUZUKA
AND
KUZURYUU
CLANS
THROUGH
BLOOD...

AND OUR
MEANS
OF PEACE
IS AS
SUCH:

...HAVE
DECIDED TO
UNITE OUR
SIDES AND
PUT AN END
TO THIS
HISTORY OF
WARFARE
AND
VIOLENCE...

WE MUST
AVOID THIS
CATASTROPHE
AT ALL
COSTS.

THEREFORE,
MONOMO'S
FATHER AND I,
AS THE HEADS
OF BOTH
FACTIONS...



THIS IS
A VITAL
CEREMONY TO
FORGE PEACE
BETWEEN
EASTERN AND
WESTERN
JAPAN!!

IN OTHER
WORDS,
KOLUSHI,
MOMOKO...
YOU ARE TO
BE WED!



...THAT'S
WHAT THIS
IS ALL
ABOUT!!

SO...



...CAN
PROTECT THE
LIVES OF ALL
ONE HUNDRED
AND TWENTY
MILLION
PEOPLE OF
JAPAN!

YOUR
LOVE,
YOU
SEE...

AND THE
TRAGIC
HISTORY OF
COMPETITION
THAT HAS
LONG WRACKED
THE ISLANDS
OF JAPAN WILL
FINALLY
DISAPPEAR,
FOREVER.

THE
LEADERS OF
BOTH SIDES,
MADE FAMILY
AT LAST.

IT WILL
STRIKE A
DECISIVE
BLOW FOR
PEACE.



DO NOT
FEAR,
FATHER-
IN-LAW!

THESE
ARE YOUR
ASSASS-
INS!

THEY WILL
COME AFTER
YOU, TO KILL
KOUISHI...

THEY
WILL
ATTEMPT
TO STOP
YOUR
MARRIAGE,
AND THUS
OUR
ATTEMPT
AT
BRIDGING
THE RIFT...

THERE IS
A STRONG
FACTION OF
EXTREMISTS
IN THE
WESTERN
ARMY
OPPOSED TO
PEACE

BUT THE
HATRED
OF EACH
SIDE
IS TOO
DEEP...

LEAST OF
ALL SOME
THREATENING
ASSASSINS!

MY LOVE FOR
KOUISHI-DONO
WILL NOT BE
BROKEN BY
ANYONE!



MOMOKO
....!



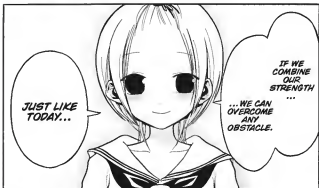
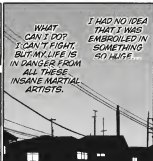
WHAT
CAN I DO?
I CAN'T FIGHT,
BUT MY LIFE IS
IN DANGER FROM
ALL THESE
INSANE MARTIAL
ARTISTS.

I HAD NO IDEA
THAT I WAS
EMBROILED IN
SOMETHING
SO HUGE...



KOUSHI-
DONO?

PLEASE
DON'T
LOOK THAT
WAY...



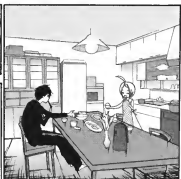
JUST LIKE
TODAY...

IF WE
COMBINE
OUR
STRENGTH

...WE CAN
OVERCOME
ANY
OBSTACLE.







...I JUST
REALIZED
THAT IT'S
ONLY THE
TWO OF
US...

...
TONIGHT
...

HUH?

N-
NO, IT'S
COOL....
YOU GO IN
FIRST.

N-NO,
PLEASE!
I INSIST,
KOUSHI-DONO
...

U-
U-UM,
THE BATH
IS READY,
YOU
KNOW!

おは
い









I'M
BEING
SWEEP
UP INTO
THEIR
CRAZY
WORLD!!!

5. INVISIBLE BONDS



KOUSHI-DONO HAS
BEEN STRANGELY
KIND TONIGHT...

ドキ
ドキ

COULD IT BE...?
IS THIS THE
NIGHT?

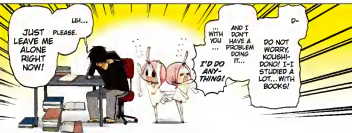
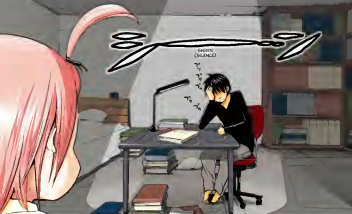
KOUSHI-DONO...
WOULD YOU
DO ME THE
HONOR...

...OF
HAVING...

ドキ
ドキ

...S-
S-SEX
WITH
ME...?

IS THIS
THE NIGHT
HE WILL
ACCEPT MY
LOVE!?





A NORMAL
CONVERSATION...



QUICK!
LET US
RETURN
TO OUR
DOMICILE!



I'M ON
DUTY
TODAY...

IT'S SO
RELAXING...

OHAY,
I'LL HELP



KOUSHI-
BONGODOD
!!

W-WOW,
THANKS.



I HAVE
TRAINED
FOR JUST
SUCH A-



THERE
WILL BE NO
DANGER
FROM
ONCOMING
ABGAGGINS!

IF
YOU'RE
WORRIED
ABOUT THE
WAR WE
DECLARED
YESTER-
DAY...

...PLEASE,
HAVE NO
FEAR!





WHY CAN'T
YOU JUST
LEAVE ME
ALONE!?



NO. SHE
NEEDED TO
HEAR THAT. IT
WAS THE ONLY
THING THAT
WOULD MAKE
HER UNDER-
STAND!

WAS
THAT
GOING
TOO
FAR...?



Y-YEAH.
FORGET
HER.

A-ARE
YOU SURE,
INUUKA-
KUN?



THE TOPS
OF THE
SCHOOL
CLASS.



THEY'RE A
PERFECT
COUPLE!

SERIOUS
STUDENTS,
BOTH MATURE...
PLUS THEY
EVEN LOOK
ALIKE.



WELL,
AREN'T
THEY SUITED
FOR EACH
OTHER?

WOW,
DO YOU
REALLY
THINK
SO?









AT ALL...



HUHHH!?
LOOK AT
THOSE
TWO!







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T-

TOMOR-
ROW!

I KNOW
HOW YOU
FEEL...

I
USED TO
THINK
THAT
WAY
TOO...



WE JUST
CAN'T DO
ANYTHING
ABOUT IT!

WE
CAN'T
HELP
IT...



I USED TO
BE THIS WAY...
DESPERATE
TO FIND AN
EXCUSE...

RIGHT?



WE
NEED TO
GO HOME
AND
STUDY.

WE'VE
GOT A
TEST
TOMOR-
ROW.



...YOU'LL BE
PROSECUTING
MUCH BIGGER
CRIMES THAN
THIS!

THE SAME
THINGS...?

IN THE
FUTURE...

THE SAME
THINGS



YES, I'D
THINK OF
THE SAME
THINGS...

AND
PLUS...

...YOU HAVE
A FUTURE
DREAM! TO
BE A PUBLIC
PROSECUTOR!



EVERYTHING
SHE'S
SAYING...

OF
COURSE.



THERE
ARE BIGGER,
WORSE CRIMES
FOR ME TO
PUNISH IN THE
FUTURE.

I DON'T
HAVE THE
TIME TO
BOTHER
WITH THE
LITTLE
THINGS.





I'D
BE TOO
ASHAMED TO
EVER SHOW
MY FACE
IN PUBLIC
AGAIN!

"ALLOWED TO
RUN AWAY" BY
THE LIKES OF
YOU...?



YOU'D
JUST SHUT
UP AND DO
WHAT WE
SAID!

YOU
NEVER
TALKED
BACK
TO US
BEFORE!

WHY,
YOU...

WHA
-??



...I
THINK...

I SEEM
TO HAVE
CHANGED.

THAT WAS
THE OLD ME.











WHY CAN'T
YOU JUST
LEAVE ME
ALONE!?









G. CATCH ME AT THE ZOO











SEN. GADDOGAN (CONTINUED)





WHAT?

NO.

NOT AT ALL...

...THEM.

IF I HAD TO PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE, WE'RE MORE LIKE...

YOU'RE WRONG.

SURELY THESE ARE THE IDEAL CIRCUMSTANCES FOR A DATE!

A WEEKEND! THE ZOO! A MAN AND WOMAN HOLDING HANDS!

BUT NO!





[illegible]



8/16, HIKARI (C) HIKARI 8/16, HIKARI (C) HIKARI







POLAR BEAR
 HEIGHT: 2-3 M.
 LARGEST LAND
 CARNIVORE.
 MAIN PREY: SEAL.
 LOVES REINDEER
 TOO.



UWA...

HEY...
 LET'S
 SCRAM...

HLHU?



NO,
 I'LL BE
 FINE.

I'VE
 NEVER
 FOUGHT
 A POLAR
 BEAR
 BEFORE,
 BUT...

THAT'S A
 POLAR
 BEAR.
 DAMMIT!
 IT EATS
 REINDEER
 !!



NO, NO,
 NO! THIS
 IS CRAZY,
 EVEN FOR
 YOU!



80% (WHISPERING) (TUMBLING)



80% (WHISPERING)



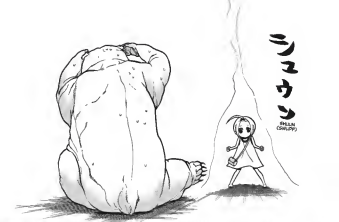


80% (GREAT CONTINUOUS)

80% (GREAT CONTINUOUS)









8/20/01 (OVERDUE) (BRACK)





...AND
THAT IS THE
MIYAMOTO
FAMILY, THE
MOST
POWERFUL
CRIME
SYNDICATE
OF THEM
ALL!

ONLY ONE
FAMILY WILL
BE ABLE TO
KILL KOUISHI
INUZUKA...

DON
ORICINO

TRANSLATION NOTES

Sumomama Momama is part of a well-known Japanese tongue twister which reads, "Sumomama mo mama mo mama no uchi," and roughly means, "Plums and peaches are part of the peach family."

Page 3

Hairo Ichiden Musou-ryuu Secret Art: Sounds like a mouthful, doesn't it? This translates roughly to "Hairo Line Peerless-Style Secret Art." Hairo is the name of one of twelve heavenly generals that are said to protect Yokushi Nyorai, the Buddha of Medicine. They are each associated with one of the twelve Chinese zodiac animals. In the particular grouping which concerns this story, Hairo is connected to the "dragon"...which just happens to be one of the symbols in Momoko's family name, Kuzuryuu.

Page 7

Basara Fudou Shingan-ryuu: This means, roughly, "Basara Immovable Mind's-Eye-Style." Like Hairo, Basara is another of the twelve heavenly generals, but he corresponds to the "dog" sign of the Chinese zodiac. Just like in Momoko's case, the character for "dog" is in Koushi's family name (Inuzuka).

Page 12

Osu: A common greeting in martial arts.

-dono: An honorific suffix. While originally meaning "lord," *dono* came to be used for people of rank to show respect. It is used rarely in modern times. Momoko's frequent use of "*dono*" in the series is part of her archaic and formal speech.

Page 13

Six Codes: The six main legal codes (or ones of law) that make up the main body of Japanese law. They are: the Civil Code, Commercial Code, Criminal Code, Constitution of Japan, Code of Criminal Procedure, and Code of Civil Procedure.

Page 94

The Twelve Martial Arts Families each correspond to the twelve animals of the Chinese zodiac, which include the dog (inu in Inuzuka) and the dragon (ryuu in Kuzuryuu).

Page 101

Shindoro Antei-tsu-ryuu: This translates to "Shindoro Fierce Iron Style." Shindoro is another of the heavenly generals, associated with the tiger of the Chinese Zodiac. As with Koushi and Momoko, the character for "tiger" appears in the name "Kogonetsu."

Page 123

Hara-Kiri is the colloquial term for the ritualistic form of suicide known as *seppuku* (See below). The literal translation is "cutting the belly."

Page 147

Plastic bottles: There is a very common urban legend in Japan that says cats are wary of plastic bottles filled with water and will avoid them. Studies have shown that this is completely untrue, but nevertheless it is a well-circulated piece of modern folklore.

Page 150

Seppuku is a ritualistic form of suicide practiced by Japan's samurai. Generally it's characterized by self-disembowelment using a sword stroke from the left to the right of the belly and was often regarded as a means of retaining one's honor.

Page 155

Martial enemies/Marriage: As you can tell, there is a pun at work here, which we were able to work into English fairly close to the original. In Japanese, the confusion is between the words "*taikon*" (momage) and "*kaiko*" (duel), which both share the letters "ke" of the start.

Page 139

Jinshin War: A succession dispute that broke out following the death of Emperor Tenji in 672 A.D.

Genpei Wars: A series of conflicts between the Taira and Minamoto clans from 1180-1185. Led to the establishment of the Kamakura shogunate.

Nanboku-cho Wars: A long period of war between the Northern and Southern Imperial Courts of Japan, from 1336-1392.

Onin War: A civil war from 1467-1477 that initiated the "Warring States" period (Sengoku-jido) during which many *damyo* fought to control all of Japan.

Battles of Kawanakajima: A series of battles between the Tokedo and Uesugi clans on the plain of Kawanakajima from 1553-1564, during the Warring States period.

Bashin War: A civil war fought in 1568-1569 between the military Tokugawa shogunate and the supporters of the imperial court.

**IROHA MIYAMOTO,
AGE 15...**



MIYAMOTO
FAMILY...



**MY HENCHMAN,
HANZO...**

GASP!
OH
NO!



**I'VE COME FOR YOUR LIFE,
KOSHII INUZUKA...**

...FOR THE SAKE OF MY CLAN!!



"MOMOKO,
I LOVE
YOU."



THE
ENTWINING
THREADS OF
ROMANCE...

BE
MINE...

**THE FIERCE COLLISIONS
OF HUMAN DRAMA.**



CLASS
REP...

**EVEN THE CLASS
REPRESENTATIVE...**



SUMEMOMO, MOMOMO

THE
STRONGEST
BRIDE ON
EARTH

2

SUMOMOMO MOMOMO①

Shinobu Ohtaka

Translation: Stephen Paul

Lettering: Terri Delgado

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